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## **Program on Information Resources Policy**

Anthony G. Oettinger John C. LeGates John F. McLaughlin Benjamin M. Compaine Oswald H. Ganley

February 14, 1986

TO: The Mailing List

Executive Registry

861000X

The enclosed describes work being done on the telecommunications industry at the Harvard Business School. For further information, contact the authors directly.

John C. LeGates

### HARVARD UNIVERSITY

GRADUATE SCHOOL OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

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TELECOMMUNICATIONS IN TRANSITION:
MANAGING BUSINESS AND REGULATORY CHANGE

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"Telecommunications in Transition" captures the dramatic changes taking place in the recently deregulated telecommunications industry. Once thought of as a single business—that of telephone service—now, at least three separate businesses exist: (1) the local exchange, (2) long distance transmission, and (3) customer premises equipment. In addition, the once distinct technologies of computers and communications have merged into a single technology, that of enhanced telecommunications.

Government regulators have redefined the public interest away from the notion of one system—with universal service—toward consideration of innovation, efficiency, and pricing to cost. The divestiture agreement between AT&T and the U.S. Department of Justice is the most striking illustration of a general trend toward deregulation in the telecommunications industry. Once again, history records the transition from a regulated monopoly to competition: the role of public policy in restructuring a national industry and its ultimate effect on the market, the economy, and how the public interest is best served.

#### **About the Editors**

Richard Vietor, a professor at the Harvard Business School, teaches courses on regulated business and on the international political economy. He is the author of numerous cases, articles, and books, including most recently, Energy Policy in America Since 1945 (Cambridge University Press, 1984).

Davis Dyer is an associate editor of the <u>Harvard Business Review</u> and a senior research associate at the Harvard Business School. He is the co-author of <u>Renewing American Industry</u> (The Free Press, 1983) and of a forthcoming book on the automobile industry and the American economy.

#### **Contents**

The Harvard Business School cases in this course module explore these issues as well as the business realities of existing in a deregulated environment. The following topics on the telecommunications industry under deregulation are broadly covered in the module:

- \* "Telecommunications in Transition." A case revealing how extraordinary changes in technology, public policy, and the marketplace have eroded and finally nullified the dominance of the world's largest company.
- \* "AT&T at the Crossroads, December 1981" and "AT&T and the Access Charge." Two cases describing the point of view of AT&T's top management before and after divestiture.
- \* "InteCom" and "MCI Communications Corporation." Two cases that describe the opportunities and challenges facing competitors in customer premises equipment and long distance communications.
- \* "General Telephone of the Northwest" and "US WEST." Two cases that explore the continuing regulatory challenges facing two telephone operating companies.
- \* "The FCC and 'Unregulation.' " A summarizing case reporting on the policy options of the FCC in its ongoing regulation of long distance communications.

The course module concludes with an essay on deregulation from both historical and comparative perspectives. Three appendixes are also included, with extensive business descriptions and financial data on 19 major companies in the telecommunications industry. An extensive glossary of terms and a listing of acronyms are presented in the back of the module.

#### Ordering Information

Copies of the Course Module <u>Telecommunications in Transition</u> are available directly from the Harvard Business School for \$25.00 per copy. Simply write to: HBS Case Services, Morgan 4l, Boston, MA 02163, to order your copy. Or, you may call our offices at (617) 495-6117. Our representatives are available Monday-Friday, from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

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Course Module, #9-986-001, 221 pages, \$25.00 (\$12.50 for educational institutions)
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# **Program on Information Resources Policy**

Anthony G. Oettinger John C. LeGates John F. McLaughlin Benjamin M. Compaine Oswald H. Ganley

### March Seminar Schedule

All seminars are held on Mondays between 4:00 and 5:30 pm in Room 241 of the Aiken Computation Laboratory, 33 Oxford Street, Cambridge.

March 10

Robert Pepper

Director of the Washington Program, Annenberg School of Communications "Modifying the Modification of the Final Judgement"

March 24

Michael Garin

President, Telepictures

"Stakes for Independent Television

Programmers in the New Video Marketplace"

March 31

Steven Koltai

International Affairs Fellow, Council on

Foreign Relations

"The Coronet Television Satellite: A Case

Study in the New Media"



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